

XXXI.—*Note on Tarentola americana, Gray.*

By G. A. BOULENGER.

ON one of my last visits to the Paris Museum I was enabled, by the courtesy of Prof. Vaillant, to examine the type specimen of the Gecko named *Tarentola americana* by Gray and *Platydyctylus Milbertii* by Duméril and Bibron. This specimen, sent by Milbert from New York to the Paris Museum, probably came from some West-Indian Island,—which we cannot say, as the lizard does not appear to have been rediscovered since. It bears most affinity to the Cuban *T. cubana*, Gundl. & Peters, the type of which I examined in the Berlin Museum (*cf.* Cat. Liz. iii. p. 490), and the West-African *T. Delalandii*, D. & B., but represents unquestionably a valid species. As in these species, the supraorbital bone is absent. The tubercles are larger than in *T. Delalandii*, scarcely keeled, in 12 series on the back; the enlarged caudal tubercles are smooth and nearly flat. The ear-opening is entirely surrounded by a fringe of converging conical tubercles. The symphysial (mental) shield is about once and a half as long as it is broad in the middle.

The number of well-defined species of *Tarentola* has now risen to nine, which may be distinguished by means of the following key:—

- I. Supraocular region bony; 13 to 20 scales across the head, from eye to eye.
 - A. Tail rounded on the sides, elliptical in section.

Dorsal tubercles strongly keeled	1. <i>T. mauritanica</i> , L.
Dorsal tubercles smooth or feebly keeled	2. <i>T. ehippiata</i> , O'Sh.
 - B. Tail flat inferiorly, with sharpish lateral edge.

Anterior border of ear denticulate	3. <i>T. amularis</i> , Geoffr.
Anterior border of ear not denticulate	4. <i>T. senegalensis</i> , Blgr.
- II. Supraorbital bone present, but small; 10 to 12 scales from eye to eye. 5. *T. neglecta*, Strauch.
- III. No supraorbital bone; 15 to 23 scales from eye to eye.
 - A. Anterior border of ear not denticulate; dorsal tubercles smooth or feebly keeled; symphysial shield at least twice as long as broad in the middle.

Symphysial shield not thrice as long as broad in the middle	6. <i>T. Delalandii</i> , D. & B.
Symphysial shield thrice as long as broad in the middle	7. <i>T. gigas</i> , Bocage.
 - B. Anterior border of ear denticulate.

Symphysial shield about once and a half as long as broad in the middle; dorsal tubercles very feebly keeled.	8. <i>T. americana</i> , Gray.
Symphysial shield about twice as long as broad in the middle; dorsal tubercles strongly keeled	9. <i>T. cubana</i> , Gundl. & Peters.